

# Tendencies

Poetry • Abbey Morelli

Ticking is paralyzing  
double check locks until they break off  
what good are they now  
some words I hate  
they can't be the last one spoken  
blanket them with a safe word  
it fixes things  
for now.  
blinking can be a nuisance  
and a noose'd neck,  
if you think about it  
you'll have to count each one  
I break switches and knobs  
buttons are bad too  
the urge to press it?  
Overwhelming.  
Rip pages from books  
if a hair falls out  
pull more  
until it's even  
everything even  
unless done perfectly  
the first time with one  
rare.  
One time I snapped my hairbrush in half  
everything has a count  
it wasn't adding up  
Reading causes a stiffened spine  
when I can't decide  
if it's time to turn the page  
I don't like ending sentences with 'up'  
but I'll do it for you here  
Sometimes I claim I can stop  
If I wanted to